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MRS. JORDAN PRESENTS INTERESTING REPORT AT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATED CHARITIES

Mrs. Alice Jordan, manager of the Associated Charities, presented a most enthusiastic and interesting report at the annual meeting of the board of directors of that organization. The report takes into consideration all the branches of the work and points out that the past 12 months has seen the scope of each branch materially broadened. The report is, in full, as follows:

Our organization has taken a step forward this year, in that the central registration system has been finally installed, and is working quite satisfactorily. All the affiliated societies doing active work in the line of relief, having cheerfully responded to the request that they furnish to the Associated Charities a list of their beneficiaries. When the matter was first broached, it was thought that the expense of installing was too great, and very few of the affiliating societies responded favorably when asked to support the measure by subscribing. So it was dropped for a while, but later, a committee was appointed, with W. S. Bowen as chairman. He personally solicited the necessary funds, and it was put through—has been in good working order for three months. Some of the societies were a little slow in returning cards, and in some cases it was felt that out of regard for the feelings of the applicant, it was not necessary, and would do more harm than good to divulge the name and address, as there was not the slightest probability of application being made for relief of any kind to the Associated Charities or any other society than the one handling the case. This attitude will be readily understood by any one having had much experience in helping others, and a decision in such cases should be left to the discretion of the officers of the different societies.

Office Made More Useful
Another advance is in having the office open all day, instead of from 9 to 12 a. m., as heretofore. This has made the office of more use to persons not finding it convenient to come in the morning; necessitating, however, the services of an assistant. For 14 years, one worker has tried to do it all—office work, investigation and visiting, but with the increase in population, it was impossible to continue in this way, and in order to make the work more efficient, it was considered advisable to employ an additional, capable worker. Such has been found in Miss Lillian Moody, who had received some training as a social worker; but she had scarcely begun the work when she was suddenly called to her home on the mainland, because of the illness of her mother. Pres. Dole then appointed Miss Farley, who has taken hold with great earnestness, and is proving a valuable worker. We have together gone very thoroughly over our case records, putting aside those apparently closed—scores of these had been put aside a year or two ago. These records have, from the beginning, been kept alphabetically, that is, Aas, Bbs, Ccs, etc., together and I have never had any difficulty in looking up a case, but now they have been arranged in more perfect alphabetical order—Aas, Ab, Ac, etc., which will doubtless expedite the work.

An employment bureau has gotten well started in the last few months, the Y. M. C. A. and Salvation Army to attend to the male applicants, and the Associated Charities to place women and girls. We have been quite successful in this department, at which Miss Farley has labored most diligently and conscientiously, but having to deal, at times, with women having a very limited knowledge of English, there have been misunderstandings, and some discouraging experiences. The labor question is becoming serious here as well as on the mainland, and the action of the chamber of commerce, warning men against seeking employment here, was a much needed one and will be heartily appreciated by all charity workers.

Kindly Criticism Helpful
Judging from the perusal of the many annual reports from charity organizations, it would seem a not unusual thing to be under the fire of criticism. This office has not escaped the experience. I presume there will always be people who measure the usefulness of the Associated Charities by the amount of money spent for relief in comparison with the amount paid out for salaries and office expenses, forgetting that relief work is not the highest and most important aim of the society. A glance of Art. 11 of the by-laws will show the objects of the organization. The securing of employment, "friendly intercourse, advice and sympathy," cannot be expressed in dollars and cents. Kindly criticism is helpful and always appreciated, but the criticism of anyone, even though a director, who never attends a meeting, never enters the office, and whose only knowledge of the work of the society comes from hearsay, is valueless. Then, too, a gentleman, formerly a member, speaking before the Board of Supervisors, is reported by the Press, to have made the statement that the Asso. Char. had, in past years, been of great help to the other societies, but that such was no longer the case. From what source this information was derived, is unknown to the speaker, but she greatly fears that the error has been in the direction of too much help, and because of practically turning over their work to us, there has been a falling in interest on the part of some of the societies. Your manager has recently been informed that it was her duty to stimulate interest in the affiliating societies, and keep them up to their work.

As she had never been so instructed by her Board of Directors, and had never acquired the aggressive habit of interfering in other people's affairs, and, moreover, having perfect confidence in the competency of those at

the head of the different societies, it never occurred to her to assume any such supervision.

Societies Give Up Work
The fact remains that some of the societies were giving up their work. There seemed no good reason for this transferring of work, owing to the central and accessible location of our office, especially in the case of those requiring continuous relief, but it constitutes a shifting of responsibility which slackens interest, and is not advisable.

The Catholic Benevolent Society Union and the American Religious Society disbanded some years ago. The Hawaiian Religious Society has not had a meeting for years—even the order book for food, having been turned over to your manager. There is still a little money in their treasury, but nothing is being done to increase their funds, or to arouse interest, as Mrs. Marfariane, the treasurer, after repeated, ineffectual efforts to get the women together, has given up.

The Catholic Ladies' Aid Society was in a state of collapse, Mrs. du Roi, the moving spirit, being away so much of the time. Fr. Valentin told them it was a pity to give up, and advised reorganization. This society for years has given a relief allowance of from \$20 to \$40 a month to the Associated Charities, not adequate, as most of our applicants are Roman Catholics, but a great help. The two ladies who had been asked to take the positions of president and treasurer, came to me for advice as to reorganizing on quite different lines. They were strongly urged to start afresh; to affiliate with the Associated Charities as before, and look to us for investigation of cases when necessary; give to us the names of their beneficiaries on cards which we would supply, but to send us no relief funds—disburse that themselves, and have friendly visitors chosen from their membership. We would cooperate in every way possible. On such a basis, the two ladies thought favorably of accepting the offices pressed upon them.

Year's Relief Work Extensive
The German Benevolent Society looks well after its people, occasionally asks us to investigate, and cooperates heartily in every way. The British Benevolent Society does the same with its few needy ones, and lends a willing ear to requests for special help in emergency cases.

The officers of the Strangers' Friend Society, although not doing much personal work in connection with the Associated Charities, vote \$50 a month relief allowance to us, allow your manager, who is the treasurer of the S. F. S. and knows the state of the finances, to use her discretion about using money for milk, and we also have the use of their endowed beds in the Queen's hospital. Just recently the Foster bed was placed at my disposal, and we are allowed the use of the German bed, when not occupied by one of their own people.

The Portuguese Benevolent Society has the hardest time of all, as it has the largest number of calls, and very little money to work with; consequently, much help has to be received from this office. There is such a large Portuguese colony here, and many of them in comfortable circumstances, that there should be a large membership in this society, and more workers, instead of leaving all the visiting to Mrs. Tranquada who, in spite of her large family and many duties, is an untiring worker among the Portuguese poor and sick.

The Humane Society is again making use of our office, which is most agreeable and helpful all around, as we are able to consult with Miss Ward about many cases. Our relief work has not been as extensive this year as last, for work has been more plentiful, and in many cases the relief has been required for only a short period. Thirty-eight patients have been sent to the Queen's Hospital, on free beds at our disposal, and express great thankfulness for the good care received there. We are certainly able to avert suffering and long continued invalidism, by the use of these beds, for there are times when sending people to the city physician to be examined, and placed in the hospital if necessary, has not always proved satisfactory. We have a case of the kind just recently, and having no vacant bed, advised Mrs. Tranquada to go with the woman to the doctor with the result that no examination was made, the most rude treatment was received, she was told that she had only a little stomach trouble, was given a little medicine and dismissed. Just as soon as we had a vacant bed, we sent her to the hospital, where she was properly examined, and found to be in need of a major operation.

There is one thing more, that tony finger.

many of us, seems to need remedying. Would it be right and proper for our Board of Directors to use its influence in bringing about a change in the hour for receiving patients at the Gov't Dispensary? The one hour, at present, when the doctor will receive and examine patients is from eight to nine in the morning, and many find it most difficult to get there at that time—then, as occasionally happens, if a steamer is claiming the doctor's attention, the time is much curtailed. This is not spoke in a fault-finding spirit, but the poor have so many hardships, it seems as if they are entitled to some consideration when sickness is added to their many other burdens. There is very little opportunity for constructive work, or "follow up" work here, as the families coming for relief are almost entirely plantation laborers. They come from all over the islands. Some member of the family is sick, and they all come to Honolulu to be taken care of until the sick one has recovered; or it is too rainy at one plantation, and they want to make a change. All sorts of excuses are given—very often, if there are a number of children, they say they cannot earn enough to support them. Of course in Honolulu they are worse off, but it is hard to convince them of this, especially if we can be persuaded to help with the rent, provide milk for the babies, and give food and clothing occasionally. We generally do this for a time, but there is already so much unskilled labor here that the opportunities for securing jobs are few, and we urge them to return to a plantation. Sometimes it is necessary to withhold relief before they see the force of our argument.

Increasing Calls for Help
There are increasing calls for help in the way of nourishment for tuberculous patients, and the number of deaths from this disease is startling. One month four out of seven applicants were victims of tuberculosis.

The Punahoa Preparatory, Kaahumanu and Kaulaani schools, as usual, made a most generous Thanksgiving donation, which helped 35 families to have a real feast day. The Kaulaani school, being in Palama, a district containing many poor families, sent a large proportion of its gifts to Palama Settlement for distribution. At Christmas, because of the Mall-hini tree, and the many entertainments at the different missions and churches, nothing was done by the Associated Charities excepting to purchase a dozen comforters, which were given where most needed.

We were asked recently if there was any one season of the year when there was greater occasion for relief work. There is no such time. It depends very largely upon the demand for labor; when work is plentiful the calls upon us are correspondingly few, and those who come can be directed to work, but when work is slack, we are busy.

There were 240 new applications during the year, and an average of 43 cases recurrent monthly. There were 354 visits made, and 1868 calls at the office.

The receipts, including the balance from last year, were \$2827.20 and the disbursements \$2808.05, leaving a balance of \$19.15.

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